Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area Superfund Site

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Check one: [ ] Monthly Update   [x] Quarterly Update

Other related fact sheets? [ ] yes [x] no

Current "Hot" Issue(s):

- Cleanup of residential properties in the Landmark Subdivision began in July 2003, and was completed in 2011, after negotiating access to additional properties. An accumulation of waste staged on site in 2010 and the waste below the stockpile were transported to the Luttrell repository in 2011.

- Other cleanup projects at the Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area Site were conducted during the 2011 field season using remaining funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Region 8 remedial action funding. These include hauling staged waste from the 2010 ongoing cleanup of the Lee Mountain mine site in Rimini, cleaning up one additional property in Rimini after negotiating access, and starting the expansion of waste disposal capacity at the Luttrell Repository.

  > **Commented [TH1]:** Or is this ontinuing in 2012?
  > **Commented [TH2]:** Have all fund been spent?

- Planned work to construct a public water supply system to replace contaminated domestic wells for the Rimini community has been tabled because the Rimini Water and Sewer District has declined EPA's offer for the district to own, operate and maintain such a system. Residents have been provided the opportunity to receive bottled water or point of use treatment systems, although some have declined them.

- Design efforts proceed to control sources of acid mine drainage, provide active and passive treatment systems for priority discharges in the watershed, and remove priority mining wastes.

  > **Commented [TH3]:** Completed?

- Cleanup of the remainder of the Lee Mountain mine site and priority wastes and waste piles at the Little Lily mine site in the Rimini area is planned to begin in 2012. The expansion of the final waste cell of the Luttrell Repository should be completed in 2012.

  > **Commented [TH4]:** Update?

Site History:

- The Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area site is located in the Rimini Mining District, southwest of Helena, Montana. It consists of numerous abandoned and inactive hard rock mine sites that produced gold, lead, zinc, and copper. Mining began in the Rimini Mining District before 1870 and continued through the 1920s. Little mining has been performed in the Rimini Mining District since the early 1930s.

- EPA added the Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area to the Superfund National Priorities List on October 22, 1999, due to mining waste problems in the 53 square mile watershed. The small historic mining community of Rimini is located within the Superfund Site boundaries. Contaminants of concern are heavy metals, primarily lead, copper and zinc, as well as arsenic. These contaminants pose potential risks to public health and the environment.

- EPA has been working closely with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Lewis and Clark County Health Department and affected communities to provide for long-term management of wastes left in place following cleanup.

- EPA has been working with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the Lewis and Clark County Health Department to establish a ground water control area to heighten awareness of potential ground water contamination as new homes are constructed.

- EPA Continues to coordinate cleanup activities with the City of Helena, recognizing that reductions in metals loading from mine wastes will result in cleaner water emanating from Helena's municipal watershed.

Public Interest:

- Residents affected by the ground water control area and/or institutional controls regarding waste left in place have a high level of interest.